GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000
HEALTH CARE IN INDIA
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s health service has been ranked 112 out of 191 countries as per World Health Organisation report;

(b) whether India has also been placed at 133rd position in respect of per capita health expenditure as per WHO report;

(c) if so, whether according to the report, India`s health care system is worse than Bangladesh and Iraq;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have examined this report;

(e) if so, the details of deficiencies that have been pointed out in this report; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the health care sytem?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 TO BE ANSWERE 07.08.2000

(a)& (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The World Health Report, 2000 focusses broadly on three health system goals:

(i) Improving general health and ensuring equitable access among the population;

(ii) Enhancing the level of responsiveness of the health system in terms of respect for persons, prompt attention etc.; and

(iii) An equitable distribution of financing among the population.

The aforesaid parameters are amorphous and subjective. Preliminary scrutiny of the report indicates that the methodology used in assessing these parameters for the purpose of ranking countries is unscientific, con-representative and inaccurate. In view of the above, the reliability of the findings is questionable. Therefore, it is erroneous to conclude that India`s health system is worse than Bangladesh and Iraq.

(f) The Central Government alongwith the State Government have taken several initiatives for improving the health infrastructure. A network of rural health facilities comprising 137006 Sub-Centres, 23179 Primary Health Centres and 2913 Community Health Centres have been established throughout the country (as on 31.12.98) to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas. Further, for strengthening secondary health care services, substantial funds have been mobilized from World Bank. The Central Government has also secured substantial external aid for various National Health Programmes to control Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness, AIDS and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.